



**United Way of Portage
County**

P.O. Box 845 Ravenna, Ohio
44266-0845

218 W. Main Street, Ravenna, Ohio

June 5, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch, Commission's Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Subject: DA 07-2017

Designation of 2-1-1 and 5-1-1 as abbreviated dialing codes
CC Docket NO. 92- 105

Dear Secretary Dortch:

United Way **211 Portage** hereby submits its Comments to Public Notice DA 07-2017, released May 7, 2007. The Public Notice requested comments on the status of implementation of the 211 and 511 Dialing Codes. Further, the Public Notice requested comments on actions the Commission should take if these Dialing Codes are not widely used. United Way **211 Portage** is limiting its comments to the status of 2-1-1 service in Ohio.

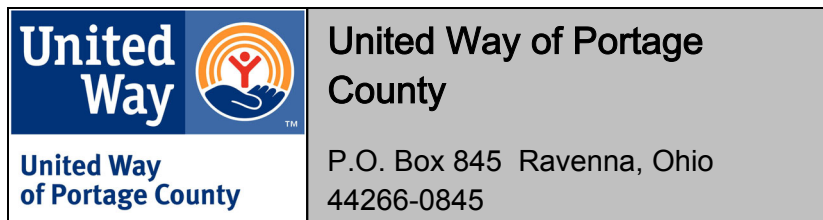
United Way **211 Portage** has provided information and referral services in Portage County, Ohio since 1974 and 2-1-1 service since 2004. We provide 2-1-1 service to Portage County, Ohio reaching a population of 156,000. The database of service providers used for making referrals has listings for over 750 agencies and programs, who provide over 2, 100 services. In 2006 our 2-1-1 center received 12,554 requests for assistance locating services in our community. United Way **211 Portage** operates by nationally recognized standards and is working toward Accreditation by Alliance of Information & Referral Systems.

The most common reasons people give for calling United Way **211 Portage** are for assistance with basic needs: food, shelter, clothing and household goods, utilities and transportation. United Way **211 Portage** provides screening and referral to four (4) of the nine (9) emergency food cupboards in Portage County and serves as the clearinghouse for school supplies and holiday assistance programs throughout the county. In addition, United Way **211 Portage** connects people with opportunities to serve and to build community, and assists non-profit organizations by channeling both volunteers and donations.

We respectfully request that the Commission find the public is well served by the use of 2-1-1, that the Commission continue to support the 2-1-1 Dialing Code for this purpose, and that the Commission use its authority to facilitate more widespread use of the service.

Sincerely,

Jim E. Dunbar



Erin C. Dunbar, LSW, CIRS
V.P., Community Services & Director, **211 Portage**



211 Portage

Portage County's Information and Referral Services

"When you need help or want to help."

330.297.4636 -- Voice/TDD

330.296.3813 -- Fax